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Message Text

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65
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 SAM-01

/094 W
---------- 096991
R 041720Z SEP 75
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9513
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1032

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EEC
SUBJECT: BRITISH SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO HANDLE AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS

1. ON SEPTEMBER 4, DENMAN, DEPUTY SECRETARY IN THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF TRADE AND THE BRITISH DELEGATE TO THE EC ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE, INTRODUCED TO AMBASSADOR GREENWALD HIS SUCCESSOR, ROBIN W. GRAY. (DENMAN, WHO HAS BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE IN REPORTING TO US ON ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENTS, HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO SECOND PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE CABINET OFFICE.) DENMAN AND GRAY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN DAVIS, UNDER SECRETARY IN THE UK MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

2. THE BRITISH ARE UNEASY ABOUT THE SEPTEMBER 22 MEEETING OF THE GATT MTN AGRICULTURE GROUP. THEY FEAR A REPETITION OF THE STALEMATES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED PREVIOUSLY. THEY EXPRESSED A WORRY THAT THE US POSITION WAS HARDENING FROM THE PREVIOUS COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENTS AND THAT AS A RESULT, THE COMMUNITY POSITION WAS ALSO HARDENING. THEY SUGGESTED THAT NEW APPROACHES WERE NEEDED. IN THEIR OPINION, IT WAS NECESSARY TO AVOID A STALEMATE
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ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES. IF THE DISCUSSION COULD PASS ON TO

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SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS THE PROCEDURAL ISSUES WOULD APPEAR
LESS IMPORTANT AND PROCEDURAL OBJECTIONS WOULD EVENTUALLY
PASS AWAY. THEY ADVANCED A PROPOSAL WHICH WAS
OBVIOUSLY A CONSIDERED BRITISH POSITION. THEIR
SUGGESTION WAS THE DISCUSSION OF NTBS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE
BE HANDLED AS FOLLOWS: NATIONAL NOTIFICATIONS ON NTB
PROBLEMS COULD BE ADDRESSED DIRECTLY TO GATT DIRECTOR
GENERAL LONG. LONG COULD THEN ISSUE A CALL FOR A MEETING
OF EXPERTS TO DISCUSS THOSE NTB ISSUES WHICH HAD SO FAR
NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY HANDLED. (SINCE THE NTB/GROUP
WILL HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THE INDUSTRIAL NTBS, THE MEETING
OF EXPERTS WOULD CONSEQUENTLY ADDRESS ITSELF PRINCIPALLY
TO NTBS AFFECTING AGRICULTURAL GOODS.) THE MEETING OF
EXPERTS WOULD NOT BE HELD UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE
AGRICULTURAL GROUP OR THE NTB GROUP. THE EXPERTS COULD
CONDUCT A COMPLETE EXAMINATION AND ISSUE A REPORT WHICH
COULD THEN BE CONSIDERED BY ANY OF THE MTN GROUPS WHICH
WISHED TO CONSIDER THE REPORT.

3. AMBASSADOR GREENWALD SAID THAT THIS SOUNDED SIMILAR TO
THE PREVIOUS PROPOSAL THAT THE AGRICULTURE AND NTB/TARIFF GROUPS
SET UP JOINT SUB-GROUPS. DENMAN REPLIED THAT HE DOUBTED
THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FOR JOINT
SUB-GROUPS BUT HE FELT THAT DESPITE FRENCH OBJECTIONS, THE
COMMUNITY COULD BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT THE "HEADLESS MEETING"
PROPOSAL OUTLINED ABOVE.

4. DENMAN WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT HIJZEN AND RABOT WOULD BE
SHORTLY HOLDING DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON. HE DESCRIBED
HIJZEN AS A "SENSIBLE CHAP" AND SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED
STATES DISCUSS THE BRITISH IDEAS WITH HIM.

5. DENMAN, GRAY AND DAVIS WERE ALL OUTSPOKEN ABOUT THE
NEED TO AVOID BEING BOGGED DOWN ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES AND
THE NECESSITY TO USE IMAGINATION IN ORDER TO GET THE DIS-
CUSSIONS ON TO SUBSTANTIVE POINTS. THOUGH THEY COULD NOT
GUARANTEE THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD GO ALONG WITH THE
"HEADLESS MEETING" SUGGESTION, THEY FELT THERE WAS A GOOD
CHANCE IF SUCH AN IDEA WERE ACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED STATES.
GREENWALD
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ECBRU07871
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750306-0803
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750981/aaaactnl.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO HANDLE AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EEC, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006